

RESOLUTION NO. 13-955

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Dr. Harry L. Hobbs, Communications Relations Officer of the Huntsville Police Department, was recognized and honored on November 7, 2013, at his induction ceremony into the Army Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame at Fort Lee, Virginia. He became the first missile systems warrant officer named to the Hall since its inception in 1969, and joined 391 current Hall of Fame members that include Dr. Wernher von Braun; and,

WHEREAS, he has held many varied career assignments, which include U. S. Army Soldier/Chief Warrant Officer 5, 1978-2007; Adjunct Professor at Florida Institute of Technology, 2002 to present; Professor Military Science, JROTC, Columbia High School, 2007-2010; and City of Huntsville Police Communications Relations Officer, 2010 to present. Among his many awards, he was inducted into the Audie Murphy Leadership Club and the V Corps Distinguished Leader Club and holds the Bronze Star for performing combat operations during the Gulf War (Desert Storm); and,

WHEREAS, in 1969 when the Hall of Fame was established, Harry was a disadvantaged young boy being reared by his grandparents in Kentucky. About that time, he became involved with the local YMCA to escape the streets where he was taunted for being biracial and illegitimate. He later excelled as a Boy Scout, becoming the first boy of color Eagle Scout in his scouting district; and,

WHEREAS, in 1978, he joined the Army and fulfilled his basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, with his first assignment at Fort Knox, Kentucky, training as a field artilleryman. While at Fort Knox, he met his soon-to-be wife, Erica, who was reared in a military family. She helped to focus the young soldier, and he began receiving invaluable recognition, first with honors for things like best physical fitness, best ruck marcher, Soldier of the Quarter and NCO of the Quarter and then his induction in 1985 into the prestigious Sergeant Morales Leadership Club. He served four years as a field artilleryman and six years as a missile systems repair supervisor. In 1988, he was promoted early to Sergeant First Class and a Warrant Officer appointment, holding positions of training and leadership to mentor and train Ordnance Corps Chief Warrant Officers. In addition to mentoring young soldiers on the job, he and Erica worked through their church in mentoring kids; and,

WHEREAS, in 2007, Harry retired from his Army career at Redstone Ordnance Corps, and was awarded the Legion of Merit Award for his values based on philosophy and ability to train and mentor generations of soldiers into outstanding military leaders. He is a retired veteran who has left behind many achievements of a long military career to accomplish even greater things in his civilian life. Harry thanks God for all his experiences during the many different stages of his life, and knows they formed him into the man he is today. He is a mediator, a consensus builder and a conduit to link people with resources for success. He can work with the disadvantaged because he understands from where they originate; he can work with highly educated and successful people because he sought out his own education and his own success. Harry knows everything God has given him is to help others, whether that be a young soldier just beginning his career or someone on the street who feels they have been mistreated; and,

WHEREAS, his major motivator was and is still wife Erica and their two daughters, Shara, 32, and Shauna, 24. Shauna is an Army nurse and Shara, who has also served in the Army, is married and has a family. Harry's faith has sustained him in all his deployments and through the challenges he has faced during his career. He didn't do the things he has always done for awards. He and Erica worked with youth as a young married couple and the youth in the community when no one was looking. The Christian thing to do is serve others and make a

community better. Harry sincerely believes his faith in God dictates that he give back.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that we recognize and congratulate Dr. Harry L. Hobbs upon his induction into the prestigious Army Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame. He did not let prejudice, discrimination or poverty define who he would become. He is a man who loves God and people, who is supportive and caring and always willing to go the extra distance to help those in need. We salute and acknowledge him as an outstanding citizen in our community.

ADOPTED this the 5th day of December, 2013.

President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 5th day of December, 2013.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama